

-13-

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for transmitting frame type information in a communication system comprising the steps of:
  - 5 providing at least two different coding rates for processing said information in said transmitter, wherein said frame type information is associated with said at least two different coding rates;  
coding, at said transmitter, information at a rate based on a selected one of said at least two different coding rates;
  - 10 including a frame type indicator with said coded information in a frame, said frame type indicator being selected from at least two frame type indicators depending upon said selected one of said at least two different coding rates, wherein said at least two frame type indicators have a different bit length; and  
transmitting said frame including said frame type indicator and said coded  
15 information.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a bit length of a frame type indicator associated with a lower coding rate is greater than a bit length of a frame type indicator associated with a higher coding rate.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said coding is speech coding.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein one of said at least two coding rates are rate one and rate  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- 25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said frame type indicator associated with rate one has a bit length of zero and said frame type indicator associated with rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  has a bit length of 40.

-14-

6. A method for determining a frame type of a received frame of information comprising the steps of:
- receiving said frame;
  - correlating said received frame with a first frame indicator pattern;
  - 5 identifying said received frame as having a first type associated with said first frame indicator pattern if a result of said correlation exceeds a threshold;
  - correlating, if said received frame is not identified as having said first type, said received frame with a second frame indicator pattern;
  - identifying said received frame as having a second type associated with
  - 10 said second frame indicator pattern if a result of said correlation exceeds a threshold, wherein said first and second frame indicator patterns have different bit lengths; and
  - otherwise, identifying said received frame as having a third type.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said first, second and third types are
- 15 different speech coding rates.
8. A receiver comprising:
- receive processing circuitry for receiving a frame of information;
  - a memory for storing a plurality of frame indicator patterns, including a
  - 20 different frame indicator pattern for each of a plurality of different coding rates, at least two of said different frame indicator patterns having a different bit length; and
  - a processor for correlating said frame of information with each of said plurality of stored frame indicator patterns until a match is found to identify a coding rate associated with said frame of information.
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9. The receiver of claim 8, wherein each of said plurality of stored frame indicator patterns has a different length.

-15-

10. The receiver of claim 8, wherein a bit length of one of said at least two frame type indicators associated with a lower coding rate is greater than a bit length of another of said at least two frame type indicator associated with a higher coding rate.

5 11. The receiver of claim 8, wherein said coding is speech coding.

12. The receiver of claim 8, wherein one of said at least two coding rates are rate one and rate  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

10 13. The receiver of claim 12, wherein said frame type indicator associated with rate one has a bit length of zero and said frame type indicator associated with rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  has a bit length of 40.

14. A method for determining a frame type of a received frame of information  
15 comprising the steps of:

receiving said frame;

correlating said received frame with a plurality of frame indicator patterns;

comparing a maximum correlation value, generated by said correlating  
step, with a threshold;

20 identifying said received frame as having a first type associated with a  
frame indicator pattern that generated said maximum correlation value if said maximum  
correlation value exceeds said threshold; and

otherwise identifying said received frame as having a default type.

25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said first and default types are different  
speech coding rates.